Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

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Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each week is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

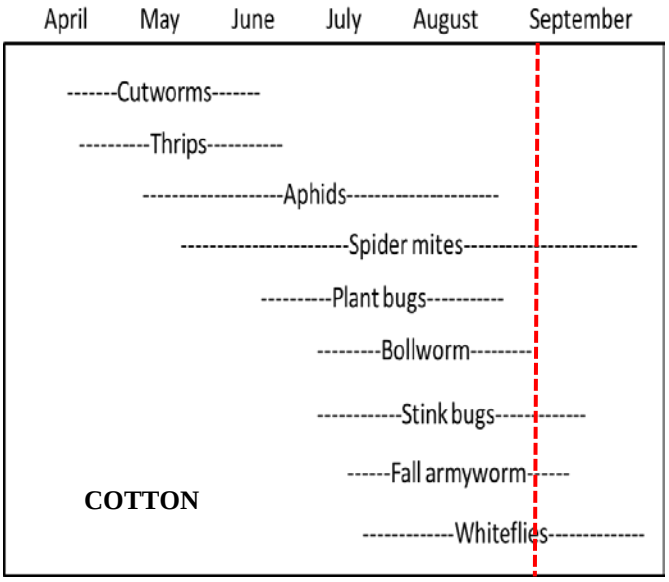
When noteworthy events happen the in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at @bugdocisin on Twitter.

News from Around the State

Jay Crouch, county agent in Newberry, SC, reported that he is "seeing huge levels of fungus (pictured at right) in kudzu bugs." **Fleming McMaster**, local crop consultant, reported threshold numbers of redbanded stink bug (nymph pictured below) in soybeans that were "just sprayed" with a pyrethroid, confirming that this species is tolerant to most insecticides we use in soybeans. Very high rates of acephate, some pyrethroids, and selected mixes are used for acceptable control in the Mid-South and Gulf-Coast states where this species can be a major pest of the crop. I am still seeing plenty of moth activity in soybeans. There are many velvetbean caterpillar moths flying around, and there are plenty of green cloverworms, small soybean loopers, and stink bugs still out there in soybeans. So, concentrate scouting efforts on soybeans at this point in the season.

Cotton Situation

As of 3 September 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 97% of the crop has set bolls, compared with 95% the previous week, 99% at this time last year, and 96% for the 5-year average. About 38% of bolls are opening, compared with 21% the previous week, 21% at this time last year, and 25% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 41% excellent, 57% good, 2% fair, 0% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

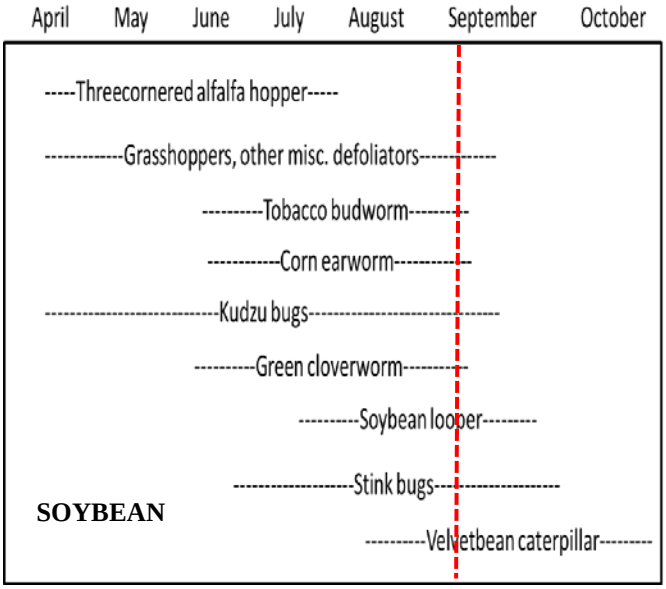


Cotton Insects

Late populations of stink bugs are basically all that remain in cotton as a potential concern – at least for 6-legged animals. Adult stink bugs have likely stopped depositing egg masses in cotton and have shifted reproduction to soybeans. However, remember that any immature stink bugs still present in cotton cannot fly and cannot leave the field. They are committed to feeding and becoming adults. Give those late fields one last look. Bollworm is likely out of the picture in most fields, and spider mites have not been bad generally. Hopefully, hurricane Irma takes a right turn out to sea. If not, we could see much of our cotton end up on the ground after a good growing season. Everyone, face East and blow hard!

Soybean Situation

As of 3 September 2017, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 97% of the crop has bloomed or is blooming, compared with 92% the previous week, 95% at this time last year, and 92% for the 5-year average. About 77% of the crop is setting pods, compared with 61% the previous week, 68% at this time last year, and 63% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was described as 29% excellent, 66% good, 4% fair, 1% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

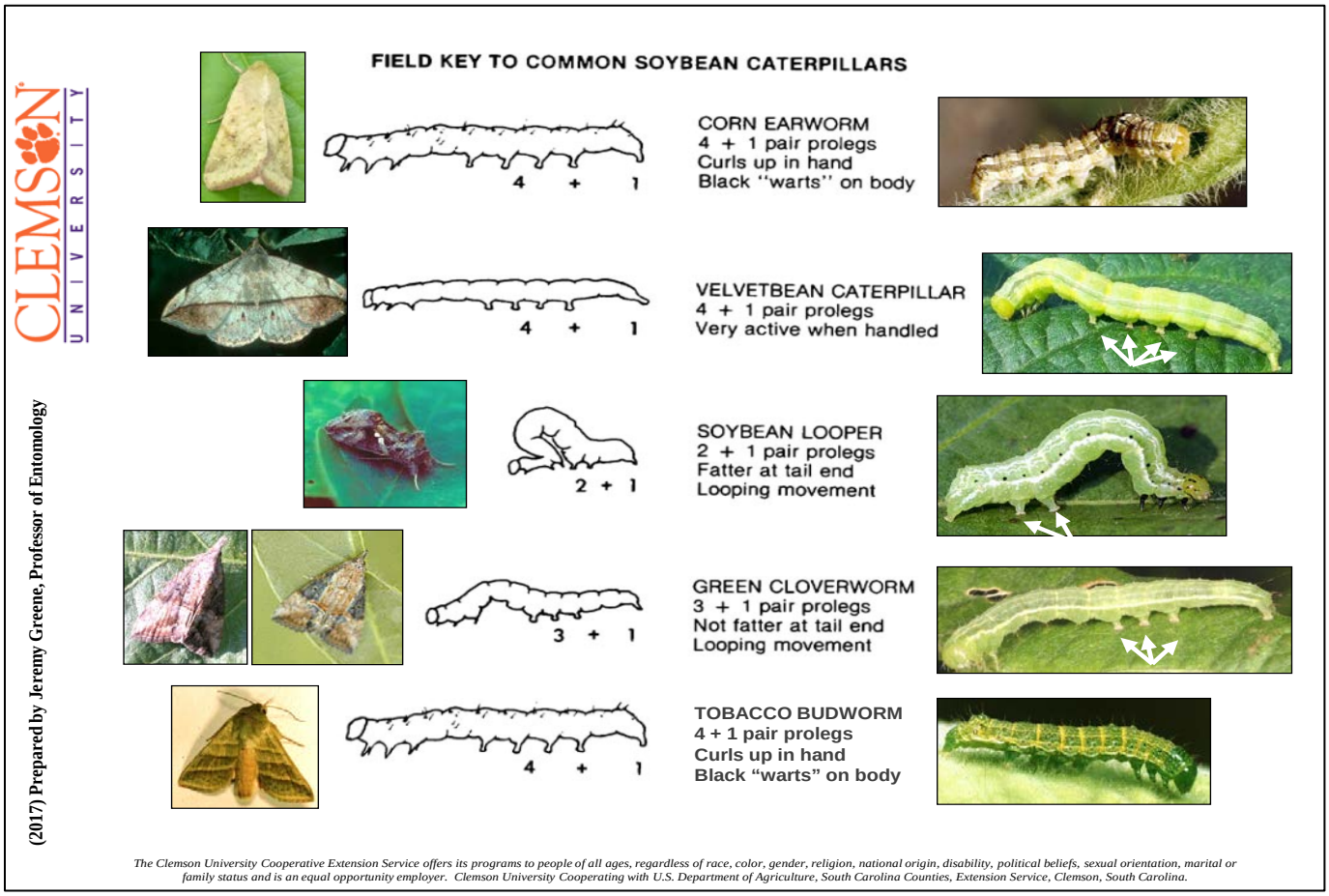


Soybean Insects

Soybean loopers, green cloverworms, velvetbean caterpillars, other caterpillar species, and stink bugs are our main concerns to end the insect season in soybeans. There are stink bugs and selected species of

caterpillars in just about any given field. It all depends on the spray history of each field – what was sprayed last and how many days ago was it applied. If a pyrethroid (at a high rate) was used very recently in a field, you will most likely be dealing with soybean looper, brown stink bug, and redbanded stink bug, if there are any issues at all. You have to keep up the weekly scouting and be under threshold for insects into R7 to be sure. If a field has been sprayed recently with a selective spray for caterpillars only, you could be needing a final spray for stink bugs. Again, you have to go check to be sure. Go scout!

Finally, here is my last push this "summer" for properly identifying insects in soybeans. Make sure you can tell the difference between the last flush of small caterpillars in your drop-cloth sampling, especially green cloverworm (GCW), velvetbean caterpillar (VBC), and a soybean looper (SBL). Often, when the caterpillars are small, GCW and VBC can look a lot like SBL. Remember, GCW and VBC are easy to control with a pyrethroid that will also control most other pests (stink bugs, podworms, etc.), but SBL requires a much more expensive and selective insecticide. So, correct identification of caterpillars is a critical initial piece of information. Use magnification in the field to correctly identify the species present.



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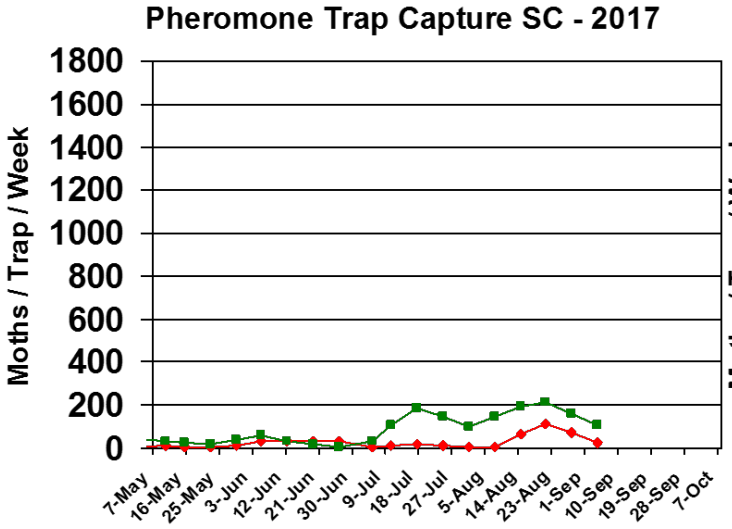
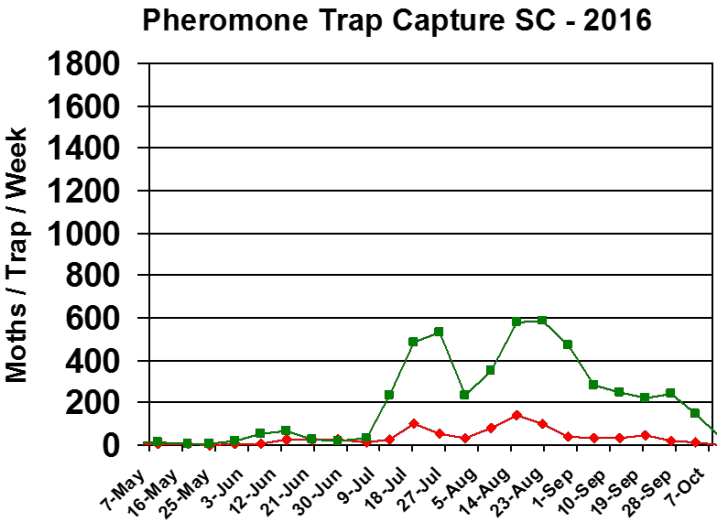
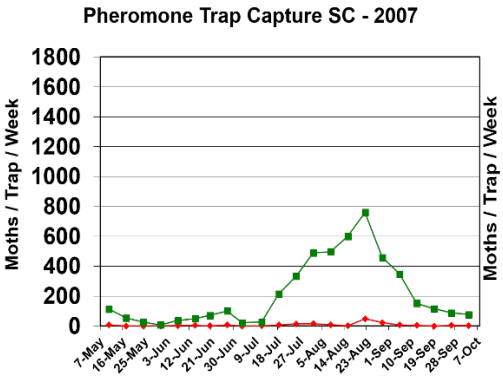
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

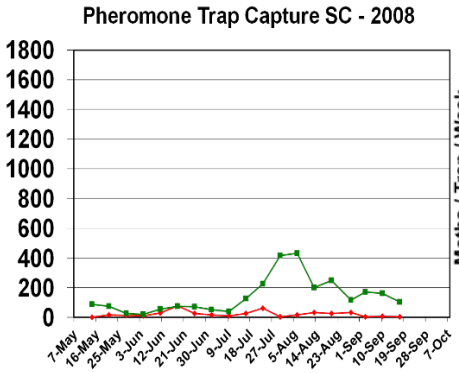
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are captures from 2007 to 2016 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

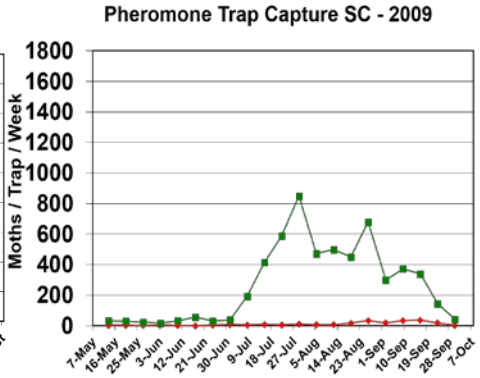


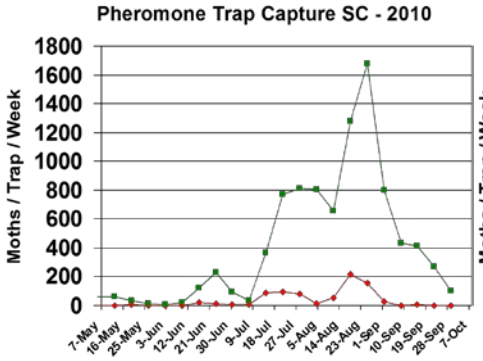


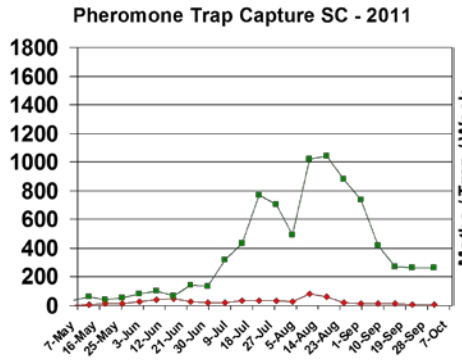
Trap data from 2007-2015 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:

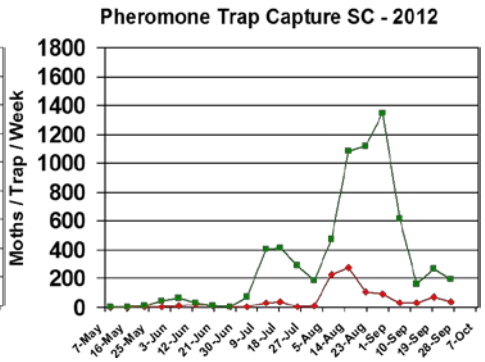


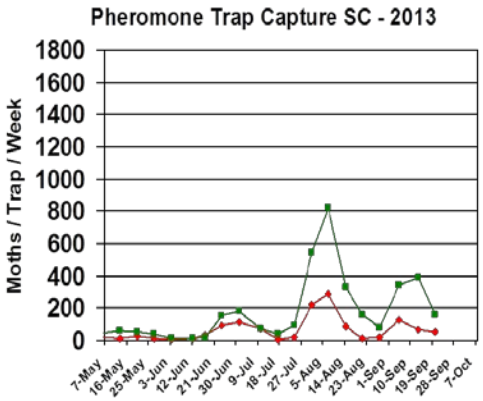


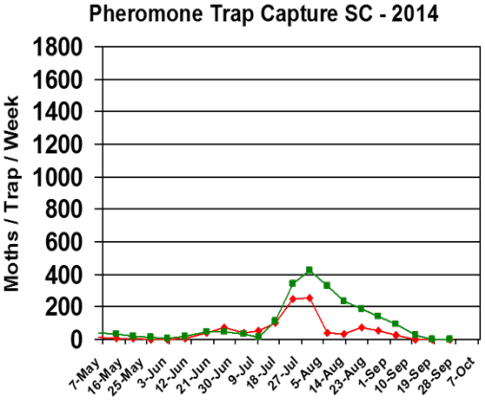


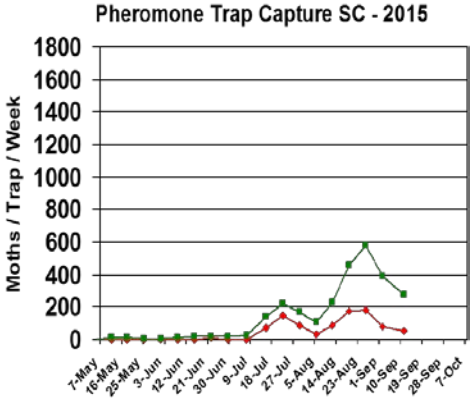












Pest Management Handbook – 2017

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2017 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html

Free Mobile Apps: "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer"

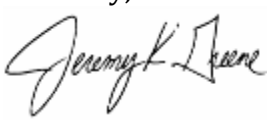
Download our free mobile apps called "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer" that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats): http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters: http://www.clemson.edu//extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html

Sincerely,



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Professor of Entomology

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